



## News Release

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### **Corps Unearths Unfused Munition in Spring Valley**

**BALTIMORE, MD**--The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, unearthed an unfused World War I munition on Feb. 16, while preparing the property on Glenbrook Road for the planned intrusive investigation scheduled next month.

Ordnance specialists from the Corps of Engineers found the unfused 75mm projectile just below the surface in the backyard of the Glenbrook Road property. All preparatory work stopped immediately at the site. After Army ordnance specialists from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., arrived, they determined the munition was stable and unfused. Initially the munition was characterized as a possible smoke round containing no chemical warfare agent.

Ordnance specialists placed the munition in a sealed container and moved it to the Corps' Interim Holding Facility located off Dalecarlia Parkway. After further testing using x-rays and a neutron-emitting device, ordnance specialists confirmed that the munition did not contain any chemical warfare agent or explosive capabilities. On Feb. 17, the empty munition was transported to Andrews Air Force Base. On Feb. 18, the munition was transported from Andrews to Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia where it was destroyed. No residents in the community were required to evacuate during the removal of the munition.

The Corps' planned intrusive investigation at the Glenbrook Road property scheduled to begin in March is focused on the two anomalies that are possible suspect burial sites for chemical warfare material. During the Corps' geophysical survey of the site other anomalies were identified on the property, but were not indicative of a burial pit. At the request of the State Department, Corps specialists were working to verify the nature of these anomalies in conjunction with preparing the property for the March investigation when the discovery of the munition occurred.

From 1917 to 1920 the Spring Valley area was the site of the American University Experiment Station. At this site, military personnel conducted research on and performed small-scale field testing of chemical warfare items.

Following the discovery of 141 World War I munitions in 1933, the Corps of Engineers conducted an intensive two-and-a-half-year investigation of the Spring Valley community. This investigation resulted in the discovery of two unfused ordnance items. A final report summarizing the Corps' investigation was issued in June 1995.

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